

**RURAL TOPICS.**

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**Practical Suggestions for Our  
Agricultural Readers.**

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**Labeling Fruit Trees.**

Every fruit-grower who wishes to preserve  
some of his fruits will find a label of  
this kind indispensable. Without this  
label of his work will be sure to get into  
confusion. No difference how good one's  
work may be, it is liable to fail in some  
places. This will be particularly the  
case when a person is given to testing new or

the kinds of a single tree. The register, of course, is not to be omitted; it is not always convenient to have the band.

zinc label, written on with a lead-can hardly be said to be satisfactory, is inconspicuous, as Prof. Bailey suggests, and besides, the writing sometimes is more or less obscured.

best label, probably, is made of pine or, four and a half or five inches long, eightths wide and about three-sixths thick. Two notches are required one end, to receive the wire; copper should be the size of broom Wirs. It should have a thin coat of white lead

and young sows for first litters at from 12 to 18 months, the old sows should be bred at 12 months.

I give them a good, warm, dry place to sleep, and a yard large enough so they will take plenty of exercise. I have all houses. My farrowing pens are four feet, four-foot post behind and seven feet in front, boarded tight, with a single board upper half of front is made to take out and let in the sun and to close to afford shade in bad weather. I have no large pens. These farrowing pens make sleeping quarters for the hogs in the young sows liberally; all they will eat are corn, shorts and corn-meal, varying the portions of the feed as an animal puts

ke to feed equal parts of ground oats, corn and shorts. This makes a good feed for young sows, pigs and old hogs as for hogs that are well matured I have last few Winters fed finely-cut hay, alfalfa and shorts, which has proved very satisfactory with me. This is always mixed, and fed in thick mess. I do not cook any feed for hogs. I mix it fresh and feed. I do not think there is much of your sows getting too fat.—Breed little.

**Feeding Horses in Winter.**  
The farmers took to economize by keeping horses in Winter on the cheapest food

day after another day. This is good if the horse is to be idle, for without a horse fed on hay as its main diet constipated. This will make its rough and starting. Cornstalks are a food, and better for idle horses than always provided that enough of the hay is to repair the waste of muscle in them. Cornstalks and a small oats will keep an idle horse in fair shape. When the busy time comes on or other grain feed should be in- and the horse be exercised lightly at first if the skin becomes toughened and scales hardened. For horses at work Timothy hay and grain a little old-

feeding clover seed illustrates consumption of the new-process oil meal takes out much all the oil. That makes it a horse hard at work. The loose-slowly at hard work usually means an animal has not enough strength to feed and pull its load. It gets tired in the easiest way, and a few weeks under such conditions will wear down a horse sooner than weeks of work when digestion is all right.

ing it to live in the soil until a favorable opportunity comes for it to grow. We have clover growing on a field where no seed had been sown for six years. The only explanation was that it came from the seed of a clover-seed crop cut nearly 10 years ago. It is probable that clover seed, if too deep to germinate, is in better condition to preserve its vitality than it is in a close and warm barn or storehouse. Seed, after the first year, loses color and vigor when exposed to light. It will grow, however, when two and even three years old.

the spots on the skull of a young  
the horns are about to break  
it will destroy the horn and cause  
fight sore that will give the animal  
inconvenience. Sometimes, how-  
application does not reach the root  
orn and a new growth will spring  
teh should be kept for this, and the  
r knife be applied as soon as the  
horn is seen.

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**A Practical Farm Book.**

many books have been written on,  
but Prof. Thomas Shaw's new work  
and Clovers, Field Roots, Forage and  
crops seems to be the most valuable

It tells what crops are best for certain latitudes, how to prepare the ground, how to sow the seed, how to care for it, how to harvest, and how to feed the stock. I know a good deal, but I do not know to read this book must acknowledge Shaw is thoroughly up to date on these things he discusses, and he throws out interesting suggestions to those who like advanced thought in agriculture. I have carefully avoided that rock on which so many authors have wrecked the usefulness of books that otherwise would prove a life-saver, in that he is fully aware of the practical and abstract terms that serve the reader. He makes his points so plain and direct that no one who

Ontario Agricultural College at the Minnesota Experiment Station to write as few men can, and as has done on these topics. The book is just out of press, and is given by the Northrup, Brasen, Goodwin Co., of Minneapolis, Minn., as a premium for Vegetable Seeds to the amount of \$1.00 per acre. It is a very valuable catalogue, which will give further information, is mailed free to those who mention the name of the publisher. It consists of 150 pages, and is printed in super-calendered, paper, 40 pages.

old, and should be in the hands of  
engaged in agricultural pursuits.